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HE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Swayze, et al.

Paper No:

Serial No.

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Group Art Unit:

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Filed:

September 29, 2003

Examiner:

Brian D. Nash

For:

SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING MULTISTROKE FIRING INCORPORATING A TRACTION-BIASED RACHETING MECHANISM

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 in response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2005, please amen'd the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

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